

SOUTH CAROLINA NUCLEAR ADVISORY COUNCIL

NUCLEAR ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

January 17, 2002, 1:00 PM
Room 207, Gressette Building
Columbia, South Carolina

Members present: Mr. Steve Byrne, Dr. Carolyn Hudson, Dr. John Stucker, Chairman, Senator Greg Ryberg, Mr. Ben Rusche, Dr. James Navratil, Ms. Kate Billing, Representative Charles Sharpe and Dr. Vincent Van Brunt
Staff: Patricia Tangney and D'Juana Wilson

The fourth meeting of the SC Nuclear Advisory Council was held on Thursday, January 17, 2002, at 1:00 PM, in Room 207, Gressette Building, Columbia, South Carolina. Dr. John Stucker, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the first quarterly meeting of 2002 of the Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council. He then asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Senator Greg Ryberg stated that if time allowed, he would like the Council to add the issue of the Savannah River Site setting aside land to be used for technology to the agenda. Chairman Stucker agreed to discuss this issue under "Other Business" on the agenda. Mr. Ben Rusche made a motion to approve today's agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vincent Van Brunt and unanimously approved. Chairman Stucker then asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 18, 2001, meeting. A motion was made by Representative Charles Sharpe for approval and seconded by Mr. Rusche. The motion carried.

Chairman Stucker announced that Mr. Lake Barrett was unable to attend. In his absence, Mr. Ron Milner, US DOE, gave a presentation on the status of Yucca Mountain High-Level Waste Repository. A question and answer period followed the presentation. The Council discussed in detail the process of licensing the Yucca Mountain Site.

Mr. Mike Ryan, MUSC, then gave a presentation on Risk Assessment and Radioactive Waste Disposal. There was a brief discussion following his presentation.

Mr. Hank Stallworth, SC Governor's Office, spoke to the Council on the Role of the States with the issue of spent fuel and high level waste disposal. There was discussion by the Council and Senator Ryberg made a motion that the Council write the delegation to encourage them to continue to move forward on this issue. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rusche and unanimously approved.

Bill Newberry updated the Council on the status of the Barnwell Extended Care Fund study which is contracted to Bradburne, Briller, and Johnson, LLC (BB&J). He said that

the Budget and Control Board hopes to have an accurate report by late February. There was a discussion regarding the time frame of the completion of the study. Although the contractor may require another extension, the Council did agree that they would prefer the study be done thoroughly and accurately. Bill Newberry will continue to keep the Council updated on the status of this study.

Hank Stallworth of the SC Governor's Office next reported on the status of plutonium disposition program. He stated that the Governor does not want plutonium entering the state of South Carolina unless there is a path for its ultimate disposition. He further stated that the Governor is not opposed to the Council being a part of negotiations regarding this issue, but he is firm that South Carolina should not receive unless there are firm timetables for its removal. There was additional discussion on this matter and Mr. Byrne asked if the Governor has the authority to stop the shipments. It was stated that the legal ramifications would have to be looked into regarding this matter.

Mr. Stallworth stated that temporary storage of plutonium could easily become permanent storage and this is a major concern of Governor Hodges. Dr. Stucker and Mr. Rusche expressed their support for the Governor's position on this matter.

The Council then discussed how government land could be used for technology development. Some Council members expressed concern if the Council were to propose a technology park for the Savannah River Site, it would be overstepping its bounds as the role of the Council is to advise the Governor on nuclear issues and not business development issues. This issue will be placed on the next meeting agenda for continued discussion, along with the Barnwell Extended Care Fund study.

A date for the next meeting will be announced later. Mr. Byrne wanted an update on the uranium situation in Simpsonville and Chairman Stucker noted that a letter has been sent to the Governor regarding this issue.

Senator Ryberg made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rusche and unanimously approved.